



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 –4:00 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie
Absent: Selectman Ed Silva
Administrative Staff: Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary, Paul McLatchy III, Administrative Assistant
Other Attendees: Board of Health Chair Margaret Rice
Audience of Citizens: Ben Werner, Director of Rowe Camp and Conference Center

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M., a quorum of the board present via remote participation.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: yes

Silva: absent

Vice-Chair Semanie: yes

Background: This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been meeting weekly for the past few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing matters in town related to the pandemic. As Board of Health Clerk Joanne Semanie was elected last Saturday to the Board of Selectmen, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and as such, must take place in open session.

Covid Discussion: The following points/topics were addressed during discussion:

Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice provided the following updates:

- There are confirmed Covid-19 Cases and there was discussion about the effect it has on a town department since 2 members were required to quarantine due to exposure with a person who tested positive for the virus.
- Rowe Elementary School sent out letters to school parents to inform them about the cases since a school age child tested positive.
- The Fire Dept. cancelled their regular Thursday training due to the reported cases.
- There was confirmation that no person testing positive or in quarantine attended Special Town Meeting and that attendees wore masks, social distanced, it was outdoors and 10 minutes in duration.

- Chair Rice reported that the Covid-19 tracking team working through FRCOG would contact people who tested positive each day and there was a \$300.00 fine for people who did not follow the quarantine order.
- There was discussion about the need to plan further if any employee of the town either contracted the virus or had to quarantine.

The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:

“The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and includes important information regarding local spread of the virus and precautions to protect ourselves and our community.

The coronavirus spread and infection rate has been increasing nationally in recent days and has now had an effect on the town of Rowe.

Contact tracing is currently underway through the Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative, and fortunately there is no evidence yet of community spread. However, if you are contacted by a member of the contact tracing team, please be open and honest with them, as the information they request is used to help protect everyone in the community.

During a call with the contact tracing team, they may ask you for information such as a list of all of the people you were within six feet of recently, or they may ask you about your activity during the last few days. They may also ask for the phone numbers of anyone you were recently in contact with, so they can be called and cared for. They may call those people to continue the contact tracing effort, but they will not tell them your name.

The confidentiality of your private information is protected by Massachusetts law. It will only be used to help the Commonwealth respond to and prevent cases of an infectious disease. The contact tracing team will not release your name to anyone with whom you’ve been in contact.

If you have not received a call from the contact tracing team, that means that you are not likely to have been in a situation recently where you were exposed to someone who has the coronavirus.

However, it is imperative that we all continue to wear cloth face coverings or masks and remain diligent in washing our hands. 6-foot distancing from others while indoors OR outdoors, as well as avoiding gatherings where you will be in close contact with people outside your household - especially indoor gatherings - are also critical in preventing the spread of coronavirus. Slipping up on any of these measures, even only on occasion, will likely lead to greater virus transmission within our community.

The local incidence of coronavirus will not affect the upcoming election, however, please observe all of the previously mentioned safety measures if you do choose to vote in-person on November 3rd.

The Rowe Coronavirus task force will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent.

Thank you, and stay healthy”

Adjournment:

MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: **yes**

Silva: **absent**


Vice-Chair Semanie: **yes**

Respectfully Submitted,


Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *NOVEMBER 12, 2020*

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Selectman Joanne Semanie

Documents:

- Agenda October 27, 2020